

BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1947

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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

MR. COUNCILLOR A. ASHBY, J.P.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Mr. Alderman S. J. Taylor, J.P., until May, 1947)

(Mr. Alderman W. H. Hughes, J.P., from May, 1947)

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER.

MR. COUNCILLOR A. A. ASKEW.

„ R. F. BOTTING.

COUNCILLOR MISS A. F. CLAXTON

MR. COUNCILLOR G. H. GOODWIN.

„ H. G. GRIMSDITCH, J.P.

„ A. B. HOWES.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. T. Donovan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverpool).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

W. H. Ball, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Second Sanitary Inspector :

C. E. Lockley, M.R.S.I., Cert. S.I.B.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant :

A. T. Smith.

Rodent Officer :

J. L. Harris.

Maternity and Child Welfare :

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council :

M. & C.W. Clinics—L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal Clinics—L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors and District Nurses :

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council :

G. Jess, S.R.N., S.C.M., T.A., H.V. (left June 8th).

F. G. Carey, S.R.N., S.C.M. (left on September 3rd).

G. M. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M.

C. K. M. Tasker, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

P. A. Thackeray, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Transferred November).

P. P. Barber, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.C.N., H.V. (Appointed August).

D. A. Coxwell, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed December).

Mrs. Yeoman, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed October).

Tuberculosis :

East Sussex County Council :

R. Dingley, M.A., M.D.

Venereal Diseases :

East Sussex County Council :

J. E. Schneider-Green, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S. (Lond.).

Clerks :

J. B. Roodhouse.

K. F. Westwood.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Year 1947 which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 170/47 of the 31st December, 1947.

Before this report could be prepared, Dr. W. T. Donovan, Medical Officer of Health, had resigned on his appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Ramsgate. The preparation of statistics and subject matter has been undertaken by Mr. W. H. Ball, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. J. B. Roodhouse, Chief Clerk, to whose efforts and those of their associates I am greatly indebted.

The General Standard of Health

The general standard of Health in the Borough for the year may be regarded as satisfactory. There was an increase in the number of infectious disease cases, 467 cases being notified as compared with 111 in 1946. The increase being most marked in relation to Measles and Whooping Cough. It is well known that there is a marked rise in the incidence of Whooping Cough and Measles every two years.

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate

There has been a slight rise in the birth rate, the figure for the year being 16.2 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 15.7 per 1,000 estimated population in 1946.

Death Rate

The death rate is 16.8 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 15.6 per 1,000 estimated population the previous year.

Infantile Mortality

The infantile mortality rate was 23.1 per 1,000 live births, which is extremely satisfactory and compares favourably with the country as a whole, namely, 41 per 1,000 related births.

Poliomyelitis

Three cases of Poliomyelitis were confirmed during the year, all of which were of a mild character.

Diphtheria Immunisation

There has been continued progress in the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign. Particular attention was paid to the giving of reinforcing doses to those children who had received their initial immunisation whilst evacuated during the war. 1,003 reinforcing doses were given as compared with 433 the previous year. In addition, 363 children received initial immunisation, 280 of which were under the age of 5 years.

Efforts are being made to increase the number of children protected against Diphtheria by means of films, posters, leaflets, talks with parents, the co-operation of teachers and the very valuable work performed by the Health Visitors and School Clinic staffs.

Sanitary Circumstances

Details of the Sanitary Circumstances of the area will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Housing

Slow but steady progress has been made with regard to the erection of houses, but there is still a fair amount of overcrowding. The Public Health Department cannot remain quiescent or satisfied until all individuals in the Borough are satisfactorily housed.

Dr. Donovan wishes me to thank, on his behalf, the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation, and all members of the Staff for their constant loyalty and assistance throughout the year.

R. J. TOLEMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1948.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,015 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,890
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,827
Number of inhabited flats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,139
Rateable value at end of 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£365,822
General Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14s. in £
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,385

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The remarks made in previous years in connection with the Natural and Social Conditions of the Borough are applicable to the year 1947.

METEOROLOGY

I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Sargent, the Borough Meteorologist, for the following report for 1947:

Meteorological observations at Bexhill were carried on throughout the year 1947; daily telegraphic reports and monthly returns were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and information was supplied to the press, to local municipal departments, and to the various inquirers.

The total duration of sunshine for each of the following months was as follows:

January	...	77.8 hours	July	...	...	244.3 hours
February	...	27.4 "	August	...	...	290.3 "
March	...	87.6 "	September	...	...	174.2 "
April	...	180.7 "	October	...	...	154.6 "
May	...	228.7 "	November	...	...	69.7 "
June	...	224.9 "	December	...	...	48.9 "

The total precipitation for the year was 24.08 inches. The wettest month being March, with a total of 6.89 inches. The wettest day of the year was 4th March with a fall of 1.04 inches during the 24 hours commencing 9 a.m.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.8° F. The maximum temperature of 88° was attained on 16th August. The coldest day was 29th January with a minimum screen temperature of 12° F. and a grass temperature of 12°F.

The full records of the daily observations of rainfall, air-pressure, screen, earth and grass temperatures, humidity, sunshine, cloud amount, visibility and wind direction, with notes on the general weather conditions throughout the year are available for reference.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

						Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	187	177	364
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	24
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	16.2
Stillbirths : Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	13	3	16
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	46.6
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	161	242	403
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	16.8
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :								
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	23.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	19.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	83.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	62
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	Nil

TABLE 1
CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes					Male 161	Female 242
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	4	7
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	1	—
9.	Influenza	..	..	..	—	1
10.	Measles	..	..	..	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	..	..	..	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	..	..	..	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M.), Uterus (F.)	..	..	..	1	1
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	4	5
15.	Cancer of Breast	..	..	..	—	10
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	..	..	..	20	21
17.	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	1
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	23	52
19.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	58	76
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	..	..	..	1	10
21.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	5	8
22.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	9	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	1	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	1	1
25.	Diarrhoea	..	..	..	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	3	2
28.	Nephritis	..	..	..	7	6
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	..	..	..	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	..	..	..	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	..	..	..	2	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	..	..	..	—	3
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	2	2
34.	Road Traffic Accident	..	..	..	2	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	..	..	..	2	9
36.	All Other Causes	..	..	..	12	17

TABLE 2

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFEC-
TIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1947
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns. (Resident Populations 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
*Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Births :				
Live	‡20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still	‡ 0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49
Deaths :				
All causes	‡12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Notifications :				
Typhoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	—	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever ..	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough ..	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	—	—	0.01	—
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age	‡41	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diar- rhœa under 2 years of age	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Notifications :				
Puerperal Fever .. }	7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21
Puerperal Pyrexia .. }				
				{ § 6.94

Maternal Mortality—England and Wales

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other Mat. causes
0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
9	5

‡ Per 1,000 related births.

§ Including Puerperal Fever.

TABLE 3

INFANTILE DEATHS, 1947. TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH

Cause	Age in Weeks				Total under 1 Month	Age in Months					Total
	-1	-2	-3	-4		1+	2+	3+	6+	9-12	
Prematurity ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Staph. Pneumonia ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Br. Pneumonia ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2

TABLE 4

INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Prematurity	Ac. Gastro- Enteritis	Staph. Pneumonia	Menin- gitis	Br. Pneumonia	Total
St. Mark's ..	2	1	1	1	2	7
Egerton Park ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Central ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Old Town ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sackville ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	1	1	2	2	9

TABLE 5
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1947

	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Total
Males ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	11	27	110	161
Females ..	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	10	11	32	180	242

TABLE 6

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS, INFANTILE DEATHS AND RESPECTIVE RATES BY WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Total Number of Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infantile Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Registered Live Births
Central	73	3.0	1	2.5
Figerton Park ..	80	3.3	1	2.5
Old Town	69	2.8	1	2.5
Sackville	66	2.7	1	2.5
St. Mark's	115	4.8	5	12.8

TABLE 7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1947 SHOWN BY WARDS AND ATTACK RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION

Disease	Ward					Total	Rate
	Central	Egerton Park	Old Town	Sackville	St. Mark's		
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2	3	5	2	5	17	.71
Whooping Cough	27	14	25	2	35	103	4.31
Measles ..	82	33	92	13	99	319	13.35
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	1	4	4	1	2	12	.50
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	2	2	4	—	2	10	.41
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	—	1	2	.08
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	.04
Ac. Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	1	—	3	.12
Totals ..	115	57	132	19	144	467	

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) The personnel of the Medical, Nursing and Sanitary Staff of the Borough is incorporated at the beginning of the report.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities**

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations are carried out on behalf of the Authority at the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, under an agreement with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities**

There has been no change during the year in the arrangements for the removal of infectious, non-infectious and accident cases, from those outlined in previous reports.

(c) **Nursing in the Home**

The Bexhill Nursing Association is supported by voluntary contributions and maintains four district nurses and one Health Visitor, who attend non-infectious cases in their homes. The Bexhill Corporation makes an Annual Grant of £100 to the Association.

During 1947 the following number of cases were attended :

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	188
General cases	...	...	363

The visits paid were :

Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	3,474
General Nursing	...	...	5,286
Casual Visits	...	...	981
Health Visits	...	...	3,477

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

Minor Ailments Clinic for School Children,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill :

Daily, 9 a.m.

Dental Clinic for School Children,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill :

Daily, 9 a.m.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill

Every Wednesday and
Thursday at 2.30 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill

2nd and 4th Tuesdays
at 2.30 p.m.

Dental Clinic for Mothers and Toddlers, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Every month, by appointment.
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Mondays, as required, 2 p.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary, London Road Clinic, Bexhill :	Every Monday, 3 p.m.
Orthopædic Clinic, Bexhill Hospital :	By appointment.
Venereal Disease Clinic, Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings :	Males—Mondays, by appointment ; Tuesdays, 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Females—Tuesdays, 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ; Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. ; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

(e) Hospitals

(a) General. Bexhill Hospital (Voluntary)

Mr. F. Geary, Secretary of the Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information :—

The work of the Hospital continued to expand during the year and a record number of patients were treated.

The following are statistics of patients treated at the Bexhill Hospital during 1947 :—

IN-PATIENTS

Number admitted	...	...	...	...	933
Average length of stay of each patient	...	...	...	...	19.93
Average daily number of beds occupied	...	...	...	...	50.9

OUT-PATIENTS

Dental Department	...	...	...	...	35
Aural Department	...	...	...	...	331
Casualty Department	...	...	...	...	1,393
Physiotherapy Department	...	...	...	...	1,194
Fracture and Orthopaedic Department	...	...	...	...	252
Gynaecological Department	...	...	...	...	90
Ophthalmic Department	...	...	...	...	172
X-Ray Department	...	...	...	...	2,649
Surgical Out-Patients	...	...	...	...	430
Medical Out-Patients	...	...	...	...	55
Dermatological Department...	...	...	...	...	120

6,721

(f) General Hospitals administered by the Public Assistance Committee

Accommodation for acute and cronic sickness is provided in the General Hospitals administered by the Public Assistance Committee of the East Sussex County Council.

(g) Infectious Disease Hospitals

(i) SMALL POX

By arrangement with the East Sussex County Council, provision is made for the treatment at the Sedgebrook Smallpox Isolation Hospital, Sedgebrook Farm, Plumpton, of cases of smallpox occurring in the district.

There were no cases during the year.

(ii) OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospitalization are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Hastings, by arrangement with the County Borough of Hastings.

(h) Maternity Hospitals

Under the East Sussex County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, Maternity Hospital facilities are available when hospitalization is considered desirable.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in the Borough is carried out by the Staff of the Bexhill Nursing Association under the supervision of the East Sussex County Council and the East Sussex County Nursing Federation. Clinics are held at the London Road Clinic, Bexhill.

Midwifery and Maternity Services

The number of midwives practising within the Borough on the 31st December, 1947, was 10.

TABLE VIII

Attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare, Ante-Natal and Dental Clinics

1. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic

Total Attendances :

Toddlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301
Infants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,865

Number of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :

(i) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	207
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	37
Percentage of notified births represented by the number in (i)	...	...	...	...	...	50.7

Total number of children under 5 years who attended the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :

(i) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	196
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	313

2. Ante-Natal Clinic

Number of expectant mothers attending	...	...	...	...	166
Number of attendances	...	...	...	...	545

3. Dental Clinic

Number of attendances by Mothers	...	...	...	...	138
Number of attendances by Infants	...	...	...	...	33

4. Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children

The facilities for institutional treatment for mothers, as described in previous reports, have continued to be available.

5. Health Visitors

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year :

To expectant mothers :

First visits...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,052

To infants under 1 year :

First visits...	...	...	...	...	...	341
Subsequent visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,704
To children aged 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	1,687

6. Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health :

Total number of homes registered in the Borough	...	13
Number of applications for registration during 1947	...	6
Homes registered during the year	... ..	2
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration	... ..	—
Nursing homes closed down during the year by owners	...	2

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

Under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925, the control of the water supply is vested in the Bexhill Corporation.

(a) The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory with regard to quality and quantity.

(b) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and subsequent to treatment are carried out. During 1947, 12 samples were submitted for Bacteriological and/or Chemical examination, all of which were of the standard required of a public supply.

(c) The water of the Bexhill area is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(d) Approximately 7,500 dwelling houses with an approximate population of 24,000 are supplied from the public water mains direct to the houses in the Borough.

In the outside area there are also 700 houses with an approximate population of 2,450 which are also supplied from public water mains.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1947 in the water area was 1,106,000 gallons, which represents a decrease of 11,000 per day as compared with 1946.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 4th November, 1947

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	Very faint opalescence with no visible deposit, becoming bright with a slight deposit of iron oxide on keeping.
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	Neutral 7.4
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	400
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	39
Hardness—Permanent (Non Carbonate)	...	...	0
Temporary (Carbonate)	...	...	105
Total	...	...	105
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	0.0
Free Ammonia	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.000
Metals	...	...	Iron 0.5 (other metals absent)
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	5
Odour	...	...	Nil
Free Carbonic Dioxide	...	...	7
Total Solids dried at 180° C.	...	...	270
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	125
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	...	...	0.000
Residual Chlorine	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in :

1 day at 37° C.	...	...	4
2 days at 37° C.	...	...	4
3 days at 20° C.	...	...	3
*Presumptive Coliform Reaction	...	Present in 100 ml.	
		Absent from 50 ml.	
Bact. Coli	...	Absent from 100 ml.	
Cl. Welchii Reaction	...	Absent from 100 ml.	

* Due to coliform bacteria of Intermediate Type II.

Report

This sample shows very faint opalescence due to a trace of iron which gives a slight deposit on standing. Other metals are absent and the water is neutral in reaction. Its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are very moderate and the water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality. It shows slight bacterial impurity including coliform organisms which are not of faecal type and are present in minimal numbers only.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

During the year the construction of sewers for 118 houses on the Ingrams Farm Estate and for 28 houses on the Watermill Lane Estate have been completed.

A new relief sewer has also been constructed in Little Common Road to eliminate flooding in parts of Willingdon Avenue.

A new gully and cesspool emptier has been delivered during the year and is in operation. The old machine is undergoing overhaul, but difficulties in obtaining spares are causing delay in the completion of this work. The question of a free cesspool emptying service cannot at the present time be considered by the Council until it can be guaranteed that the two machines will be in full operation together, with no possibility of inactivity due to lack of spare parts.

3. Rivers and Streams

No action was found to be necessary with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams in the Borough during the year.

4. Public Cleansing

The removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department. Weekly collections have been maintained throughout the year despite difficulties associated with the maintenance of the four freighters utilised for this purpose.

Controlled tipping is the method of disposal in operation at the Council's tip in St. Mary's Lane. Levels and profiles have been installed here, and there would appear to be ample accommodation for the immediate future, although consideration will have to be given to alternative sites shortly.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1947, 6,397 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors. The nature of the inspections, together with the list of notices served and the results of such notices, are included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which appears at the end of this Report.

6. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

During the year 208 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces. Forty-two notices were served, of which 17 had been complied with at the end of the year. A survey of these premises is now being undertaken, considerable progress having been made,

7. Moveable Dwellings

The department has exercised considerable activity in pursuance of the control of moveable dwellings. Thirty-one visits were paid to the sites of such dwellings.

It is apparent that the conditions imposed by the Council when issuing licences in respect of such dwellings is having the desired effect of keeping the amenities of the district on a high level. During the course of routine visits minor improvements have been suggested by the department and effected by the owners or occupiers.

Four licences were issued during the year.

8. Smoke Abatement

It has not been found necessary to deal with any case of the emission of excessive smoke or grit in the area during the year.

9. Swimming Baths and Pools

During the season supervision of the general sanitary conditions, and sampling of bath water, was carried out at the Corporation Swimming Bath in Egerton Park. In all, 9 samples were taken and submitted for analyses, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

10. Eradication of Bed Bugs

The furniture and effects of prospective tenants to be rehoused in Council houses and requisitioned property were inspected prior to rehousing. 93 premises were visited, but in no case was it found to be necessary to carry out disinfection.

One complaint regarding bug infestation was received in respect of private premises.

11. Offensive Trades

There are 4 fish frying and 1 rag and bone dealer on the Offensive Trades Register for Bexhill. Routine supervision of these premises has been carried out during the course of the year, resulting in an improvement in conditions appertaining, particularly at the fish frying premises.

12. Pig-Keeping

Under Defence Regulations 62B, pig-keeping and poultry-keeping is exempt from the provision of any local Act or Bye-law, and pig-keeping is allowed providing the animals are kept in such a state as not to give rise to a nuisance.

Minor complaints have been received during the year, and remedy has been forthcoming following interviews with the pig-keepers. It has not been necessary to recourse to the service of notices.

During the year 44 visits were paid to premises where pigs are kept.

It will be noted that it has been possible to give considerably more attention to this particular aspect of the department's work.

13. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1934

SHOP HOURS ACT.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT.

One hundred and fifty-nine visits were paid during the year to shops in relation to heating, lighting, ventilation and general sanitation. 3 notices were served in this connection, of which 2 had been complied with during the year.

Generally the conditions found on inspections of the shops may be regarded as satisfactory.

The administration of the Shop Hours Act and the Employment of Young Persons Act is also carried out by the Department, under which 9 inspections were made. It was not found necessary to serve any notices under these Acts.

Whilst during the year efforts have been made to cover a great deal of the ground in regard to conditions under the Shops Act, 1934, there still remains much to be done and it is proposed to make every effort to bring this work up to date.

14. Disinfestation

During the year 13 rooms were treated for eradication of vermin. The number of Council houses treated for beetle infestation during the year was 8.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	49	91	13	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	2	91	99	22	—	2
(b) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other premises under the Act (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) ..	4	3	18	7	—	4
TOTAL		143	208	42	—	

FACTORIES ACT, 1937
2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	..	22	2	—	3	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	..	7	4	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	..	6	4	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	..	1	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	..	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	..	—	—	—	—	—	10
(a) insufficient	..	4	—	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	..	16	5	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	..	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	..	24	2	12	—	—	13
TOTAL	..	80	17	12	3	—	60

OUTWORK—continued
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110				Section 111		
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)	M/c line No. (9)
(1)	(2)			(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Tents	31	NIL						31
Sacks	32							32
Racquet and tennis balls	33							33
Paper bags	34							34
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper... .. .	35							35
Brush making	36							36
Pea picking	37							37
Feather sorting	38		NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	38
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	39							39
Stuffed toys	40							40
Basket making	41							41
Chocolate and sweetmeats	42							42
Cosques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	43							43
Textile weaving	44							44
Lampshades	45							45
TOTAL	70							70

SECTION D

HOUSING

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling houses are submitted in the following tabular form :—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional Type Brick Houses	10
Permanent Prefabricated Houses	4
Temporary Bungalows	78

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	884
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	954
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932	81
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	36
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	65

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	44
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding

During the year 27 complaints with regard to overcrowding were investigated by the Department. Five cases were referred to the Housing Department for attention, the remainder were not overcrowded within the meaning of the Housing Act, 1936.

Reconditioning of Houses

During the year a total of 81 were inspected, rendered fit and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, involving a total of 36 visits. No cases occurred in which statutory action was necessary.

In addition 44 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action,

In common with most other Authorities the progress of repairs to houses has been somewhat slow, as, although the position with regard to the supply of materials has been a little easier, labour difficulties appear to retard the desired progress in this direction.

Housing Programme

The undermentioned table, supplied by the Corporation Housing Department, sets out details with regard to applications for housing accommodation and the number rehoused at 31st December, 1947.

1. APPLICATION

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1947	...	...	...	662
(b) Seventy per cent. of the above are from ex-Service men.				
(c) Applications from non-residents	...	...	...	149
(d) Applicants working in Bexhill, but living out of the Borough	...	...	...	43

2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Committee since June, 1945	...	...	...	179
(b) Of the above, 75 per cent. have been ex-Servicemen.				

3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1947 is as follows :

- (a) 50 Permanent Prefabricated Houses.
- (b) 96 Traditional Type Brick Houses.

4. (a) TEMPORARY BUNGALOWS

Seventy-eight of these bungalows of the Uni-Seco type were completed by the end of the year.

(b) PERMANENT PREFABRICATED HOUSES—INGRAMS FARM

Work in connection with the 50 "Orlit" houses has continued during the year, somewhat slowly because of labour difficulties, but a large number of these houses are approaching completion. Four of these houses have been completed and handed over during the year.

(c) TRADITIONAL TYPE BRICK HOUSES, INGRAMS FARM AND WATERMILL LANE

All these houses are of the three-bedroom type and are being erected in two types—North Aspect and South Aspect. 96 houses have been commenced, 42 of which are being erected under contracts with local builders. Here, also, a large number are approaching completion and 10 houses have been handed over for occupation during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 138 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to cow-sheds, dairies and milk shops during 1947.

REGISTRATIONS

The accompanying table gives the total number of persons and premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926-1943, at the conclusion of 1947, and particulars of the licences that were granted under the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1946 :—

Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	...	16
Retail Purveyors of Milk	... ..	12
Premises as Cowsheds or Dairies	... ..	34

DESIGNATED MILKS

Producer's and Bottler's Licence to sell Milk as Accredited	... ..	1
Producer's Licence to sell Milk as Accredited	...	3
Bottler's Licence to sell Milk as Tuberculin Tested	...	3
Dealer's Licence to sell Milk as Tuberculin Tested	...	5
Pasteuriser's Licence	... ..	1
Dealer's Licence to sell Milk as Pasteurised	... ..	3

MILK SAMPLING

182 samples of milk were submitted for examination and Table 9 summarises the results. The results of 39 of the samples of milk were supplied by the County Health Inspector.

NON-GRADED AND ACCREDITED MILK

The results of samples taken show that the standard of milk produced within the Borough to be satisfactory. Of the 18 samples of Non-Graded Milk submitted for examination, only two were found to be unsatisfactory. Accredited samples produced within the confines of the Borough were also satisfactory.

Milk produced outside the Borough area did not attain the same standard. In all cases where unsatisfactory samples were obtained from outside sources the co-operation of the Local Authority concerned was immediately sought and generally it resulted in an improvement.

A total of 36 samples were examined from outside sources, of which 13 were found to be unsatisfactory.

PASTEURISED MILK

There are three suppliers of this grade of milk retailing within the Borough of Bexhill. Two supplies are pasteurised at plants outside the area.

Samples obtained from outside supplies were found to be satisfactory in all instances. Some difficulty was experienced with the milk produced locally. The officers of the department spent considerable time in an effort to bring this milk up to the required standard, with some degree of success.

It must be said, however, that the position remains generally unsatisfactory and that further efforts will have to be made in connection with this source of supply.

HEAT-TREATED MILK

A considerable quantity of this milk came into the town during the course of the year, particularly during the holiday season.

This source of supply caused much concern to the department. Of the 39 samples obtained, 19 proved to be unsatisfactory, and it was ultimately deemed necessary to consult with the officers of the Ministry of Food and the Milk Marketing Board. It cannot be said that there was much improvement even after this course had been taken.

Peak periods of the trouble occurred during August and early September, during very hot weather. The position became normal as the weather became cooler. The department formed the opinion that collection and transport were the root cause of the trouble.

TABLE 9
MILK SAMPLES TAKEN

Non-Graded Milk		Graded Milks										Totals
		Examined by Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests		Accredited		Pasteurised		Tuberculin Tested		Heat-treated		
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		
Bexhill	16	2	1	—	17	8	—	1	5	3	53	
Various	17	7	6	6	5	—	8	2	20	19	90	
Totals	33	9	7	6	22	8	8	3	25	22	143	

TABLE 10

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT

AND OTHER FOODS

Meat						Total Weight	
						lbs.	ozs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	822	8
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	...	...	15	0
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	368	0
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	...	...	22	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	97	4
						1,325	2
Fish							
Fresh Fish	...	...	...	...	...	2,372	0
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	...	...	98	0
						2,470	0
Vegetables and Fruit							
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	236	0
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	6	0
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	23	12
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	52	8
Dates	...	...	...	...	...	96	5
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	403	0
Prunes	...	...	...	...	...	75	0
Figs	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Maccaroni	...	...	...	...	...	27	8
Sultanas	...	...	...	...	...		8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	23	15
						947	8
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	209	0
Bottled Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	165	10
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods	...	...	...	...	...	3,468	10½
						3,843	4½
Total Weight						8,585	14½
Disposal						lbs.	ozs.
Animal Feeding Stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	7,156	3½
Returned to Hastings Depot	...	...	...	...	...	1,256	0
Manufacturing purposes	...	...	...	...	...	93	12
Returned to Vendor	...	...	...	...	...	79	15

TABLE 11

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1948

Adulteration

The East Sussex County Council is the Authority for the administration of this sub-section, and the following information has been received from that Authority :

Article	Number of Samples taken		Number Genuine		Number Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Butter	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cake Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—
Celery Salt	—	1	—	1	—	—
Chocolate Flavoured Mix- ture	—	2	—	2	—	—
Chutney, Sultana	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee	—	1	—	1	—	—
Coffee, Extract, Dry	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fat, Cooking	—	1	—	1	—	—
Flavouring	—	1	—	1	—	—
Flour, Barley	—	1	—	1	—	—
Flour, Soya	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fruit Malt Syrup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ginger Beer Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Golden Raising Powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gravy Powder	—	2	—	2	—	—
Iodine, Tincture of	—	1	—	1	—	—
Lingo Fizz	—	1	—	1	—	—
Maltets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Milk	2	30	1	30	1	—
Mustard	—	1	—	1	—	—
Oil, Pure White Mineral	—	1	—	1	—	—
Oil, Salad	—	1	—	1	—	—
Paste, Fish	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pepper, White	—	1	—	1	—	1
Phosphate, Compound	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pudding Mixture	—	1	—	1	—	—
Quinine, Amm., Tin- ture of	—	1	—	—	—	1
Salad Dressing Powdered	—	1	—	1	—	—
Semolina	—	1	—	1	—	—
Soda, Bicard	—	2	—	2	—	—
Soup, Dessicated	—	1	—	1	—	—
Soup, Meat	—	1	—	1	—	—
Spice, Mixed	—	1	—	1	—	—
Vinegar, Malt	—	2	—	2	—	—

Remarks

Proceedings were instituted against the roundsman in connection with the Formal sample of adulterated milk, who was fined £10.

The Public Analyst stated that the sample of Phosphate Compound had deteriorated considerably. The shopkeeper said it had been in stock at least two years, during which time practically none had been sold. He agreed to withdraw it from sale.

The adulterated sample of quinine will be followed up when the shopkeeper obtains his next consignment, he having sold out at the time a Formal sample was demanded.

Ice Cream

With the coming into force of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, the department in common with other Local Authorities had to give serious consideration to the manufacture of the commodity in the light of the requirements of the Regulations.

At the end of the year the two factories which supply the bulk of ice-cream consumed in the Borough were being completely reorganised and fitted with entirely new plant.

Particular attention has been paid during the year to the smaller type of manufacturer.

Seventy-six samples were submitted for examination, with the following results : Grade 1, 10 ; Grade 2, 8 ; Grade 3, 13 ; Grade 4, 45 ; Total, 76.

It will be seen that only 13.1 per cent. of the samples satisfied Grade 1 standard, and that 59.3 per cent. were placed in Grade 4. It is generally accepted that ice-cream samples should be taken over a period of time before assessing the hygienic quality of a given product, and that such samples should be judged on the number which satisfy the requirements of Grades 1 and 2.

It was found that approximately 23.6 per cent. of the samples taken came within these two grades.

The results cannot be regarded as anything like satisfactory. On summing up, and following widespread investigation into particular instances of unsatisfactory samples, the conclusions arrived at were as follows :

- (1) That there is room for much improvement in the methods of handling in the retail side of the distribution of ice-cream. Particularly is this so in regard to sterilisation of equipment and utensils.
- (2) That the smaller manufacturer and retailer must take greater care in the methods employed.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There has been no change during the year in the infectious diseases compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of notifications received during 1947 was 467 as compared with 111 in 1946.

The most marked increase being 319 cases of Measles as compared with 58 in 1946, and 103 cases of Whooping Cough as compared with 17 the previous year.

3 cases of Ac. Poliomyelitis were notified and subsequently confirmed all of which proved to be of a mild type.

TABLE 12

Disease	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths including Inward Transfers
Scarlet Fever ...	17	15	—
Whooping Cough	103	1	—
Measles ...	319	3	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	12	—	4
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Ac. Enc.			
Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	10	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal			
Fever	1	1	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	3	3	—
Totals ...	467	24	14

Public Vaccination

During 1947, 259 certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations of children under 14 years of age were received by the Vaccination Officer, and the total number of statutory declarations of conscientious objection, irrespective of the dates of birth of the children, received by the Vaccination Officer was 82,

Diphtheria Immunisation

Twenty-eight sessions for Innoculation were held during the year, and particulars of the number dealt with are shown in the following table.

TABLE 13

	Under 5 years	Over 5 years
Number of children who completed the full course during the year	280	83
Number of children who received a Reinforcing dose	1	1003
Percentage of the child population fully immunised at 31st December, 1947	51.8	73.5

In 1946, a scheme was inaugurated whereby children over 5 years of age, who have received the initial course of immunisation may receive two reinforcing injections during their school life.

1004 of such doses were administered during the year under review.

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to Cancer was 62, 25 males and 37 females, as compared with a total of 57, 22 males and 35 females in 1946.

Tuberculosis

During 1947, formal notifications under the Regulations were received in respect of 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In addition 5 cases were brought to the notice of the Department from the following sources :—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns of cases not previously notified	1	—
Transfers from other areas	4	—
Cases restored to Register	—	—

Cases of Tuberculosis notified within the Borough come under the control of the East Sussex County Council. Examinations are undertaken at the Dispensary, London Road, Bexhill.

The following table shows the total number of cases coming to the notice of the Department, by primary notification during the year, together with the total number of deaths classified into age groups :—

TABLE 14

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
5—15	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	4	4	—	—
45—55	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	10	6	2	1	4	7	1	1

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1947 was as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	57	36	93
Non-Pulmonary	9	18	27
	—	—	—
	66	54	120
	—	—	—

Scabies

The treatment of Scabies continued during the year, up to the end of which the number of cases treated was as follows :—

Adults	12
School children	11
Children under 5 years	3

Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1947. As compared with last year I am now in a position to report on a complete year's work.

It has been a year of great activity in the department and every attempt has been made to cover all phases of Sanitary administration.

Particular and detailed attention has been given to the handling of food in shops, cafes and restaurants. It is pleasing to find that the handling of food in the Borough is generally on a high hygienic standard. There are kitchen premises in the town which could be replanned with advantage, both from the point of view of convenience and of attaining a high standard of hygiene. Perhaps we may look forward to progress in this direction as and when building materials are more readily obtainable and restrictions are lifted.

It cannot be stressed too much the important functions that the food workers of the town have to play in ensuring that we have clean and wholesome food. Instances have been found where some of the employees have not been quite as careful as they might have been.

One particular aspect of the catering business which has struck me in certain establishments, fortunately they are very few in number, is the lack of attention given to the proper washing of crockery and other utensils used.

It is not sufficient to simply immerse these articles in lukewarm water, leave them to drain, and then dry off with a cloth of doubtful cleanliness.

One other small criticism before leaving this subject. I do appeal to waitresses and waiters in food establishments not to handle that part of the cutlery intended to convey one's food. I have seen this happen on several occasions. It is unfortunate that we still have to contend with cracked and chipped crockery.

These few criticisms may seem contradictory to my first observations, but they are made in the hope that we may reach a still higher standard.

During the year 822lbs. of beef were found to be unfit for food. In most cases the meat was unsound because of "bone taint" or "heated meat," and comprised of both imported and home killed.

There is no slaughterhouse in the Borough, the meat supply being allocated from a depot at Hastings. Unsound meat (including Corned Beef) is returned to the depot. I look forward to the time when Local Authority Inspectors are allowed to see the ultimate disposal of unsound meat.

Butchers' shops were the subject of a special inspection during the period under review, with the result that these premises (including the rooms at the rear of the shops) are now in a very satisfactory condition.

The number of complaints received, 1,239, as against 1,240 in 1946, still remains very high. It was the experience that the type of complaint was of a more minor character than the previous year.

Rodent destruction work was pursued with vigour, and a complete survey of the Borough was undertaken. Much of the work done is condensed for the purposes of this report, but I am sure that the tables which are embodied will give some idea of the multifarious duties undertaken under the heading of Sanitary Administration.

TABLE 15

Houses inspected, P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	803
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	834
Houses inspected, H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	81
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	36
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	39
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	10
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	31
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	44
Rag and bone dealers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	3
Factories, mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	109
Factories, no mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	99
Workplaces, general	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workplaces, offices	...	...	...	...	...	1
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	159
Shop Hours Act	...	...	...	...	...	9
Swimming baths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	26
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	195
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1,184
Other sanitary visits	...	...	...	...	...	489
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	135
Knackers' Yard	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers' shops, etc	...	...	...	...	...	91
Fishmongers, poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	18

Grocers	86
Greengrocers, fruiterers	9
Cowsheds	32
Dairies and milkshops	106
Ice cream premises	172
Milk sampling	109
Food and Drugs Act	—
Other food visits	196
Cafes, restaurants, etc	140
I.D. and disinfection	325
Disinfestation, bugs	26
Disinfestation, general	35
Licensed premises	21
Works in progress	345
Interviews	272
	6,397

COMPLAINTS

1937	242
1938	197
1945	448
1946	1,240
1947	1,239

TABLE 16

Condition of premises	47
Housing defects	119
Overcrowding	27
Dampness	47
Water supply	14
Drains and sanitary fittings	386
Verminous premises	11
Keeping of animals	19
Accumulation of refuse, etc	14
Rats and mice	157
Milk and dairies	20
Food premises	29
Absence of sanitary dustbin	27
Food	94
Pigs	21
Miscellaneous	207
	1,239

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 17

Statutory Notices served during 1947	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory Notices complied with during 1947	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1947	...	...	...	...	Nil
Informal Notices served during 1947	...	...	...	...	802
Informal Notices complied with during 1947	...	...	...	...	698
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1947	...	...	...	...	104

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Attention has been confined chiefly to work of an urgent nature. In this connection 1,758 visits were paid and a total of 44 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings or to carry out work in default by the owner.

The following table shows the sanitary improvements effected during the year.

TABLE 18

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Eaves, gutters, rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dampness abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Plasterwork repaired, cleansed or distempered	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
New doors fixed, or doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Window frames repaired, sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
New impervious sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Stoves or fire grates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Existing wastepipes trapped, renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Yard pavings renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Premises limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Portable iron dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
New W.C. compartments constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. compartments lighted, repaired and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New urinals constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
New W.C. pedestal pans fixed or adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
New flush tanks fixed or adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	221
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New chambers constructed on drainage systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Existing manholes repaired or covers fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New soil pipes and ventilation shafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ventilation shafts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains repaired or new branch drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Drains or gullies unstopped or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Accumulation of manure or refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ventilated food store provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply provided or reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools—defective, overflowing, ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

 1,131

TABLE 19
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED, 1947

Article	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Wearing Apparel ..	—	—	15	1	4	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reds ..	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	5	2	2	—	1
Red Covers ..	—	1	9	3	2	5	1	4	5	1	1	—
Mattresses ..	—	4	14	8	8	23	9	11	15	19	10	5
Beddowns ..	—	1	7	3	3	5	2	4	4	4	3	—
Bolsters ..	—	7	4	1	1	6	2	5	1	3	4	1
Pillows ..	—	14	55	17	14	57	28	27	24	37	21	20
Sheets ..	—	—	8	2	—	10	2	16	11	5	3	—
Blankets ..	—	4	55	13	4	28	2	12	2	7	30	—
Miscellaneous ..	—	—	5	1	1	36	2	4	6	5	6	4
Totals ..	—	31	154	50	37	201	49	88	70	74	78	31

TABLE 20
ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	5	1	2	4	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Cancer ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
Vermis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	1	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	7	9	22	3	—	—	—	—	10	—	1	1
Totals ..	7	9	22	6	7	1	4	10	13	3	5	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year, 208 visits were paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, 42 notices were served, of which 17 had been complied with at the end of the year.

The following are details of the items contained in the notices complied with.

Dirty walls, ceilings and floors of W.C.	...	2
Foul W.C. pans	....	1
Absence of thermometer in workroom	...	4
Absence of Notice under Section 6, Sub-section (2), Factories Act, 1937	... ..	4
Conveniences not properly indicated	... ..	3
Defective W.C. seats	... ..	1
Unsatisfactory closet accommodation for employees	... ..	3
Provision of Chemical Closets	... ..	5

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The number of visits paid during the year was 386.

RODENT CONTROL

Ministry of Food Private Dwelling Scheme, 1946-47

This scheme was initiated under the aegis of the Ministry of Food, and had as its object the acceleration of rodent destruction on a systematic basis in a particular district. The scheme provided for the reimbursement to the Council of 60 per cent. of the cost incurred in dealing with private dwellinghouses, except in cases where the Local Authority were of the opinion that the householder had neglected to take steps to abate an infestation. In such instances the Local Authority were asked to recover costs of treatment.

Business premises were excluded, and in all cases where treatment was undertaken, such work was charged for. Similarly, Local Authorities were required to defray the cost of dealing with premises under their control.

For the purpose of the scheme the Borough was divided into 14 workable areas, which were surveyed in order to find the number of infestations arising; this was followed by treatment.

The work, as planned, was required to be completed during the fiscal year ended 31st March, 1947, but owing to the inception of the scheme being delayed until the 30th September, 1946, in so far as this Borough was concerned, the work could not be completed in the required period. As a consequence the Ministry gave approval to an extension to terminate on the 30th September, 1947. The survey and treatment as envisaged by the scheme has now been completed, and appended herewith is a summary of the results obtained.

NUMBER OF AREAS—I4

	Rats	Mice	Total
Number of infestations found at private dwellinghouses	242	17	259
Number of infestations found at business premises... ..	30	8	38
			297

TABLE 21
Disposition of Infestations

	Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Number of infestations	..	55	7	44	30	11	29	25	16	11	40	—	14	15	—	297

	Rats	Mice	Total
Number of infestations treated	186	25	211
Number of infestations found to be negative on treatment	22	—	22
Number of infestations treated by occupiers	55	—	55
Number of infestations reported to War Agricultural Executive Committee for treatment...	9	—	9

During the course of the operation 3,234 visits were made to premises and land, and 143 bodies were picked up.

Based on a Ministry of Food formula it is estimated that 1,472 rats have been destroyed as a result of the work undertaken.

CONCLUSION

During the year it was possible to take stock of the trend of sanitary administration in the town on a return to more normal conditions following the war years.

Some progress has been made, but the leeway has not yet been made up. The condition of cesspools and well water supplies in the semi-rural outskirts of the Borough call for considerable attention,

Every endeavour has been made to bring the records of factories and workshops and shop premises up to date, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that if these are to be properly supervised and maintained in the future, consideration will have to be given to increasing the number of Sanitary Inspectors.

There has been excellent team work and co-operation within the Department, and I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. Donovan for his support, to my colleagues for their help so willingly given, and to my fellow officials in all departments for their ready co-operation at all times.

W. H. BALL,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

August, 1948.

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